GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STEEL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2986
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2002
NTIONAL STEEL INSTITUTE, PURI
RENUKA CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Steel Institute has been set up and inaugurated at Puri (Orissa) to help the Steel Industry facing the international competition;

(b) if so, the main challenges faced by Indian Steel Industry;

(c) whether Steel Industry is lagging behind in technology; and

(d) if so, the manner in which the Steel Industry is likely to improve its pattern/ functioning?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATED FOR STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY)

(a) Yes, Sir. The main activities of the Institute are:
(i) research and development;
(ii) training and skill endorsement; and
(iii) consultancy services in techno-economic and managerial division.

(b) The domestic steel industry is passing through a difficult time due to low demand, excess capacity of steel production, falling steel prices, high costs of input materials etc. Increasing competition from imports and a progressive closure of export markets are some of the other challenges faced by the Indian steel industry. There is also a lack of skilled technicians and modern technology suited to Indian conditions.

(c)&(d): Many of the steel plants have adopted latest technologies. However, there is still a scope for improvement in many techno-economic parameters of different plants. The industry needs to concentrate on upgradation of technology so as to improve quality and reduce cost of production to become more competitive with other steel plants of the world. The Government has also been encouraging research and development activities with financial assistance from the Steel Development Fund (SDF). Institutes such as the Institute for Steel Development and Growth (INSDAG), the National Institute for Secondary Steel Technology (NISST) and the Bi Patnaik National Steel Institute (BPNSI) are also helping the process of technological upgradation in the steel industry.